

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A thermometry apparatus comprising:
a housing having an integral elongate cavity;
an elongate probe that includes at least one temperature responsive element;
~~an elongate hollow probe well sized~~ a removable isolation chamber sized for receiving said probe, said ~~probe well~~ isolation chamber being removable from a ~~cavity of said integral elongate housing cavity~~; and
a first switch assembly which is enabled only for determining whether said elongate probe well is attached to said housing, said first switch assembly enabling said thermometry apparatus to operate only if said probe well isolation chamber is provided in the cavity of said housing, and a second switch assembly which is enabled only if a probe is removed from an isolation chamber provided in said housing cavity, said first and second switch assemblies being interconnected such that said thermometry apparatus is not powered unless said first switch assembly and said second switch assembly are each enabled.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, including a shroud assembly into which at least a portion of said ~~probe well~~ isolation chamber is inserted, said shroud assembly being attached to said first switch assembly.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said first switch assembly is a mechanical switch that is enabled only when said ~~probe well~~ isolation chamber is inserted into said shroud assembly.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said second switch assembly comprises an optical switch.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said shroud assembly is attached to a circuit board containing processing circuitry, said first switch assembly also being attached to said circuit board.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~probe well~~ isolation chamber provides a fluid tight seal when said ~~probe well~~ isolation chamber is fitted into said housing.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically powering a thermometry apparatus ~~having~~ comprising a housing having an elongate cavity sized for receiving a removable isolation chamber and a probe with at least one temperature sensitive element, said method comprising the steps of:

enabling a first switch assembly only if a removable isolation chamber is provided within the elongate housing cavity ~~determining whether a probe well is installed in the cavity of a thermometry apparatus housing;~~

enabling a second switch assembly only if a probe is removed from an isolation chamber provided within the housing cavity ~~automatically determining whether a probe has been removed from said probe well;~~ and

automatically powering said apparatus only if said first and second switch assemblies are enabled ~~probe well has been determined to be installed in said cavity of the housing and a probe has been removed from the installed probe well.~~

10. (Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Canceled).
13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said shroud assembly comprises a tubular member, said switch assembly being enabled when said probe well is inserted a predetermined distance into said tubular member.
14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~9~~ 12, wherein said first switch assembly is provided in a shroud assembly having a cavity into which said ~~probe well~~ isolation chamber is inserted and said second switch assembly is provided on said isolation chamber ~~probe well~~.
15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14, wherein said first switch assembly is enabled when said ~~probe well~~ isolation chamber is inserted a predetermined distance into the cavity of said shroud assembly.